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Mental ills of Oswald

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George de Mohrenschildt was having mental problems shortly before he told a Dutch journalist last month he knew in advance Lee Harvey Oswald was going to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, The Dallas News has learned.

The 65-year-old Bishop College French professor agreed to commit himself to the psychiatric unit of Parkland Memorial Hospital last Nov. 9 after his wife filed court papers to force commitment, Dallas County Mental Illness Department records show.

The hospital said De Mohrenschildt was released from the psychiatric unit about eight weeks later on Dec. 30, but declined to give information about his examination.

The hospital did not refer De Mohrenschildt to the County Evaluation Center for further examination, which indicated he was not considered harmful to himself or others.

The House Assassinations Committee last Tuesday quizzed a Dutch journalist and longtime De Mohrenschildt friend, Willem Oltmans, who said he had interviewed De Mohrenschildt last month at Bishop College. Oltmans did not say whether he had known of De Mohrenschildt's previous mental problems.

Oltmans quoted De Mohrenschildt as saying he knew in advance what Oswald was going to do before the assassination in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

"He said to me, 'How do you think the media would react if I came out and said that I feel responsible for Oswald's behavior,'" Oltmans said.

The Oltmans interview developed into a national news story and sent investigators from the congressional committee scurrying to Dallas in search of De Mohrenschildt and his acquaintances. As of Friday, however, the probers had not inquired about his

records with the Dallas County Mental Illness Department.

In response to a request from The Dallas News, which asked that court records regarding De Mohrenschildt's mental illness proceedings be made accessible because such action is "in the public interest," Probate Judge Joseph E. Ashmore Jr. did so.

Congressional committee investigators have been working on the De Mohrenschildt case under the impression he disappeared after he left Bishop College March 1. Oltmans told the probers he accompanied De Mohrenschildt to Europe after he left the college on a leave of absence of several days, and then lost contact with him.

Bishop College officials said while De Mohrenschildt had not been heard from, they still expect him to return after the school's spring vacation ends Monday.

De Mohrenschildt, who was born in

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confidant told

Russia, was questioned at length before the Warren Commission in April, 1964, because of his friendship with Oswald months before the assassination. Then a petroleum engineer, he had befriended Oswald and his wife when they arrived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 1962 from Russia.

Mr. and Mrs. De Mohrenschildt had left for Haiti in connection with the oil business seven months before the assassination and were living there when it happened.

One of the fascinating aspects of De Mohrenschildt to the Warren Commission was his personal acquaintance with both Oswald and the mother of President Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline. During his 10 hours of testimony, he acknowledged he had written a letter to Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, Dec. 12, 1963, expressing his sympathies after the assassination.

De Mohrenschildt told the commis-

sion he had met and become friends with Mrs. Auchincloss at Belport, Long Island, in 1939, within a year after he arrived in this country from Russia. He said he also met Jacqueline at the same time when she was a little girl.

In his letter to Mrs. Auchincloss, De Mohrenschildt stated he still had "a lingering doubt, notwithstanding all the evidence, of Oswald's guilt."

De Mohrenschildt told the commission he "will have the lingering doubt for the rest of my life . . . mainly because he (Oswald) did not have any permanent animosity for President Kennedy."

Mrs. Auchincloss later wrote back to De Mohrenschildt saying, "It seems extraordinary to me that you knew Oswald and that you knew Jackie as a child. It is certainly a very strange world." She added, "I hope, too, that Mrs. Oswald will not suffer."